

**REPORT OF THE DEAN OF THE SOUTHWEST DEANERY OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH AND  
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA – November 3, 2018**

The Southwest Deanery consists of 15 Parishes in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio, an amalgamation of the former Mon Valley Deanery and Ohio Valley Deanery with the addition of St. John the Baptist Church in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania.

Belle Vernon, PA, Holy Resurrection	Rev. Stephan Gresh, Rector
Canonsburg, PA, St. John the Baptist	V. Rev. Joseph Oleynik, Rector Protodeacon John Oleynik Deacon Theodosius Onest
Charleroi, PA, Holy Trinity	V. Rev. Gregory Peterson, Rector
Donora, PA, St. Nicholas	VACANT Deacon Robert Motichak
Jeannette, PA, Ss. Cyril & Methodius	V. Rev. Lawrence Daniels, Rector
Masontown, PA, Nativity of the Virgin	VACANT
Mingo Junction, OH, St. Andrew	V. Rev. John Kopcha, Rector
Monessen, PA, St. John the Divine	VACANT Hieromonk Constantine (Kirkin), Temporary Administrator
Monongahela, PA, Nativity of the Virgin	V. Rev. George Yatsko, Rector Deacon David Rostcheck
Moundsville, WV, Ss. Peter & Paul	VACANT
New Salem, PA, Holy Trinity	V. Rev. Vitaly Dudkin, Rector
Steubenville, OH, Holy Transfiguration	VACANT
West Brownsville, PA, Holy Resurrection	VACANT
Weirton, WV, St. Nicholas	Rev. Andrew Nelko
Wolf Run, OH, All Saints	VACANT

With the retirement of Fr. Samuel Smolcic it necessitated the election of a new Dean of the SW Deanery. A meeting was held in November, 2017 at St. John the Baptist Church in Canonsburg, chaired by his Eminence, Archbishop MELCHISDEK for the sole purpose to elect someone to the position. V. Rev. John Kopcha was elected to the position as Dean and Rev. Andrew Nelko was elected as Associate Dean.

With 7 churches vacant in the Deanery, the task of devising service schedules for these churches became tedious and time consuming. Without the patience of the parishes and the cooperation of retired priests, V. Rev. Stephen Shuga, V. Rev. Paul Suda, V. Rev. Theodore Shomsky, V. Rev. David Vernak, and V. Rev. Michael Zahirsky and our Deacons: Motichak, Onest, Rostcheck, Stahoviak, and Truckley this task could become over-whelming. Special thanks to Associate Dean Fr. Andrew Nelko.

St. John the Baptist Church in Canonsburg, PA celebrated their Centennial Anniversary on October 7<sup>th</sup>. May God bless their congregation, Fr. Joseph Oleynik, and deacons.

We are pleased to announce October, 2018 retirement of V. Rev. Lawrence Daniels, former Pastor of SS. Cyril & Methodius Church in Jeannette, PA. May God grant him and Matushka Sophia many blessed and healthful years!

On the Feast Day of Holy Theophany a Blessing of the Water was held at an Ohio River site in Steubenville, Ohio. Participating in the service were clergy from the various jurisdictions; the OCA, Serbian, Greek, and Carpatho-Russian. A Lenten Mission Service was held with Sunday evening Missions at St. Nicholas Church in Weirton, WV. Once again, participation from the various jurisdictions were in attendance as well as our Chancellor, V. Rev. William Evansky.

Throughout the year the Dean and/or Associate Dean have attended various meetings with the lay leadership of vacant Deanery parishes in an attempt to discuss issues that are affecting either directly or indirectly their Church. At the very least they have served to clarify the status of these parishes and provide a vision of what their future may hold.

Respectfully, submitted,

V. Rev. John Kopcha  
Dean of the Southwest Deanery